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TEMPORARY JOB CUTS COMING AT BRONSON

Local, A3

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Buying a home during a pandemic

Realtors see slowdown in business, use technology in place of open houses

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to some adjustments for Southwest Michigan Realtors and real estate agents.

Lars Petzke is among those who have had to change how he operates when showing or closing on a house.

Petzke, who is a broker as well as owner of RE/MAX by the Lake, is not allowed inside homes or for in-person showings because the state has deemed real estate employees unessential.

"We're relying on our sellers to be able to do walk-through videos for us if we have not seen the property," he said. "We share that visual information with potential buyers."

He said one of the positive takeaways from this pandemic is he and his colleagues are able to reach out more often to buyers and sellers to stay in touch.

Other than this silver lining, Realtors have not surprisingly experienced a big slowdown.

See **HOME**, page A8

Don Campbell / HP staff

A for sale sign with Lars Petzke is pictured Wednesday at a home along Stewart Way in Stevensville. Petzke said Realtors have had to adjust their methods since the coronavirus pandemic has slowed the housing market.

Pandemic dents Southwest Michigan home sales

But regional selling prices continue to hit year-over-year record levels

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Through the first three months of this year, the number of houses sold in Southwest Michigan declined by 5 percent, compared to the first quarter in 2019.

Alan Jeffries, association executive of the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, said the housing market inventory of homes for sale also dropped by 4 percent. This, coupled with the drastic COVID-19 restrictions, contributed to a lower number of sales.

Despite the drop in home sales, the selling prices set record levels each month.

"Year-to-date selling prices at the end of the

See **SALES**, page A8

A FINAL SALUTE

Don Campbell / HP staff

Dozens of police and emergency vehicles on Wednesday join a funeral procession along M-63 in St. Joseph for retired St. Joseph Township Police Officer Bobby Simmons. Simmons, who spent 35 years in law enforcement, passed away on Friday following a battle with cancer.

Woman charged in alleged murder-for-hire scheme

Police say Berrien Springs woman wanted ex-husband's girlfriend killed

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — A woman who police say hired a man to kill her ex-husband's girlfriend is in jail after, according to court records, the man took a partial payment, then went to police.

Alana Gonzalez, 58, of Berrien Springs, has been bound over for trial on a charge of solicitation of murder. She is accused of hiring Quacy Roberts of Benton Harbor to kill Bonita Levi, the girlfriend of her ex-husband, Elvin Gonzalez. A Kalamazoo judge conducted the preliminary hearing for Alana Gonzalez by Zoom, an internet meeting application, after all Berrien County Trial Court judges disqualified themselves from hearing the case.

Elvin Gonzalez is the Berrien Trial Court's Family Division administrator. The Michigan Supreme Court Administrative Office will appoint a visiting judge to preside over the trial, although it will be conducted at the Berrien County Courthouse on a date yet-to-be determined.

Meanwhile, Gonzalez is being held in the Berrien County jail with bond set at $75,000 cash or surety.

According to court records, Quacy Roberts was to be paid $5,000 to kill Levi, and had received incremental payments between Jan. 23 and Feb. 24 at a location in Benton Township. The murder, by shooting, was to have occurred on March 27 in St. Joseph. At some point, Roberts went to police and another man informed Levi of the plot, according to court records.

Alana Gonzalez faces up to life in prison if she is convicted as charged.

Berrien County Prosecutor Michael Sepic said no charges have been filed against Roberts.

"It is the prosecution's theory, based on the witness coming forward to police, that he had no intention of carrying out the plot to kill," Sepic said in a written statement.

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Whitmer to extend stay-home order; state furloughs workers

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer made clear Wednesday that she will extend her stay-at-home order beyond April 30 and that some form of it will be in effect for a "long time" in Michigan, hinting that people age 65 and older and those with chronic lung problems may face restrictions longer than others.

The governor said she hopes to say more on Friday about the loosening of business limits to restart parts of the economy during the coronavirus pandemic. People will have to stay home unless they are explicitly permitted to leave under what is expected to be a revised measure, she said.

"There will be a need for an extension of some sort," Whitmer told reporters. "We know that even when we get to a stable moment, people who are compromised, who are vulnerable to COVID-19, are still going to need to stay home. Some version will be in effect for a while."

Michigan Office of the Governor via AP, Pool, File

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer addresses the state in Lansing on Monday. Whitmer said Tuesday that President Donald Trump's plan to suspend immigration is distracting from efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic and part of "inconsistent messages" that spread fear and put the public in "greater danger."

The latest

Michigan reported 113 additional deaths, bringing the total to more than 2,800. There were nearly 34,000 confirmed cases in the state, an increase of roughly 1,000 over Tuesday's figure. The actual number of infections is thought to be far higher because many people have not been tested and studies suggest people can be infected without feeling sick.

In western Michigan, Kent County's cases jumped 20 percent to more than 750, a spike that the county health department attributed to more testing.

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said the "overall trend looks good." He noted that only 17 of the 1,000 beds at the TCF Center field hospital were being used.

Beaumont Health, with eight hospitals in southeastern Michigan, said it had 728 COVID-19 patients – down nearly 40 percent from two weeks ago.

"We see these signs and know that perhaps we can start to take some

See **COVID**, page A8

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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Index

Classifieds	A4	Local	A3	State / Nation	A2
Comics	A5	Obituaries	A7	Television	A6
Features	A6	Puzzles	A6	Weather	A8

Tomorrow's Weather
High 53 Low 43

6 50645 49085 0

Alex Brandon / AP

President Donald Trump speaks about the coronavirus in the James Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House on Wednesday.

Trump 'disagrees strongly' with Ga.'s plan to reopen

By JEFF AMY and RUSS BYNUM
Associated Press

ATLANTA — President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he "disagreed strongly" with the decision by Georgia's Republican governor to reopen salons, gyms and other nonessential businesses later this week, saying, "It's just too soon."

During the daily White House briefing on the new coronavirus, the president indicated that while he is in favor of state's reopening their economies, Gov. Brian Kemp is moving a little too fast.

Kemp announced earlier this week that as of Friday, elective medical procedures could resume in Georgia, and that barbershops, nail salons and gyms could reopen with restrictions. Limited in-restaurant dining is scheduled to resume on Monday.

The announcement immediately prompted pushback by Atlanta's Democratic mayor, other political opponents and health experts who warned that the state has not yet taken the steps recommended under federal guidelines the Trump administration issued for reopening the economy safely.

Georgia ranks in the bottom 10 U.S. states in per capita testing for the coronavirus. Officials are struggling to increase testing for new infections and boost tracking of those in contact with infected people. If that isn't done, health officials said, the state risks a quick rebound of COVID-19.

"The virus moves faster than government does," said Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. "So if I had to bet on who would come out of the gate faster, it would be the virus."

LOTTERIES

Wednesday drawings

Michigan
Classic Lotto 47
01-18-28-30-38-44
Poker Lotto
JD-8C-5H-7H-9H
Midday Daily 3
1-1-1
Midday Daily 4
8-1-2-5
Daily 3
9-5-1
Daily 4
0-6-7-8
Fantasy 5
06-27-35-37-39
Keno
04-06-11-12-15-17-30-32-34-36-41-42-43-57-58-61-63-64-67-69-72-78
Mega Millions jackpot
$174 million
Powerball jackpot
$29 million

Tuesday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
08-13-25-36-44
Estimated jackpot
$100,000
Cash4Life
08-14-43-51-59, Cash Ball: 3
Quick Draw Midday
05-06-08-13-14-18-22-23-24-27-32-39-45-46-51-53-59-73-76-80, BE: 39
Daily Three-Midday
8-7-4, SB: 5
Daily Three-Evening
2-5-4, SB: 8
Daily Four-Midday
2-3-9-7, SB: 5
Daily Four-Evening
0-0-6-3, SB: 8
Quick Draw Evening
02-03-06-09-11-12-13-14-15-29-34-35-46-51-59-62-65-67-68-72, BE: 15
Mega Millions
13-15-24-67-70, Mega Ball: 17, Megaplier: 2
Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
08-22-24-36-39
Estimated jackpot
$300,000
Pick Three-Midday
2-8-1, Fireball: 3
Pick Three-Evening
5-7-7, Fireball: 0
Pick Four-Midday
8-9-4-8, Fireball: 4
Pick Four-Evening
3-3-7-8, Fireball: 1
Lucky Day Lotto
04-10-15-25-37

– The Associated Press

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Coronavirus could mean temporary windfall for health insurers in Michigan

By JC REINDL
Detroit Free Press

The coronavirus crisis in Michigan could mean a temporary financial windfall for health insurance companies for the same reasons some hospitals in the state are doing mass layoffs.

But don't expect health insurers to follow the lead of auto insurers and give consumer rebates this spring, as they may eventually face a surge of delayed visits and claims from patients with conditions other than COVID-19.

The pandemic has forced hospitals to cancel nonemergency visits and elective surgeries to ensure that they have capacity for coronavirus patients.

Those routine visits and procedures, such as knee and hip replacements, are big moneymakers for hospitals, and their cancelation has resulted in a drop in revenue and patient volume – even as some hospitals in southeast Michigan accommodated a deluge of coronavirus patients.

On Tuesday, Beaumont Health, Michigan's largest hospital system and the one that has treated the most coronavirus patients, announced it would temporarily lay off about 2,475 workers and permanently cut about 450 positions because of financial effects of the pandemic, particularly revenue loss from canceling nearly all non-virus inpatient and outpatient surgeries and other medical services.

Other hospital systems including the Detroit Medical Center and the McLaren Medical Group have announced layoffs or pay reductions since the pandemic hit.

Hospitals' cancelations of nonemergency visits aren't voluntary. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer issued an executive order that took effect March 21 and runs until May 1 that forbids hospitals and outpatient centers from performing any "nonessential procedure," which is essentially medical or dental work that isn't an emergency.

Canceled medical procedures mean fewer insurance claims, which translate into money that insurance plans and insurance companies keep for now.

In the realm of auto insurance, because there are fewer drivers on the roads and therefore fewer accidents, many Michigan auto insurers have announced customer rebates, often 15 percent to 20 percent for the months of April and May.

But insurance industry experts see the pandemic medical claims a lot differently, so do not expect to find any Blue Cross Blue Shield rebate checks in the mail this spring.

That is because canceled medical procedures result in pent-up demand for those same procedures once medical offices have reopened to all patients.

"These elective surgeries that may be forgone now, you're going to see these coming back next year – in addition to the elective surgeries that would have been scheduled otherwise," said Ilyse Schuman, senior vice president of health policy for the American Benefits Council, which represents large companies with self-funded health insurance plans.

By comparison, car crashes that did not occur because of Whitmer's "Stay Home" order aren't pushed into the future; they are auto insurance claims that will never happen.

"While COVID is having an effect thus far, we could see a surge in claims later in the year which may balance out the claims," said Jeff Romback, deputy director at the Michigan Association of Health Plans, an industry group.

Lost revenue

The coronavirus pandemic has resulted so far in more than $600 million in lost revenue for Michigan hospitals, said Ruthanne Sudderth, senior vice president of public affairs and communications for the Michigan Health & Hospital Association.

In addition, hospitals have done nearly $150 million in additional, unplanned spending for things such as more personal protective equipment, more staffing to treat coronavirus patients and readying more beds, she said.

"No one is doing anything except COVID care and emergency care," Sudderth said. "So this has been a huge hit to hospitals' bottom lines and their ability to cover their costs."

Bailout received, more wanted

The $2 trillion federal CARES Act did provide bailout money for hospitals to help with their coronavirus costs. Michigan hospitals received $468 million from the relief package, Sudderth said, and hospitals hope to receive more money in the second package that is now before Congress.

"When you look at the ($600 million-plus) losses, the math doesn't add up," she said. "So that is why we're pushing for more."

In a report last week about the impact of coronavirus on national health care costs, policy experts at the Kaiser Family Foundation said that delayed and foregone medical care during the pandemic could result in some initial cost savings. However, the cancelations also would mean higher future demand, likely washing out insurers' savings.

Still, in the end, overall health care spending could be higher than expected this year and next because of the influx of coronavirus patients.

"It seems like a large share of hospital revenue has temporarily been forgone, and we don't know how much of that is going to surge back once guidelines are eased or how much of it will be forgone all together," said Cynthia Cox, an author of the report.

The sickest coronavirus patients could be very expensive to treat. Roughly 15 percent of people with confirmed virus cases may require hospitalization, and a fraction of those patients need ventilators.

The report says the costs for hospitalization with ventilator treatment for respiratory conditions ranged from $34,223 to $88,114 in 2018 for individual patients in large employer-sponsored insurance plans, based on national data and depending on the length of the hospital stay.

Lots of uncertainty

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, the state's largest health insurer, said in a statement Tuesday that there is still a high amount of uncertainty about the potential cost impact of the coronavirus crisis and its ultimate effect on insurance premiums. Its actuaries are considering many different scenarios.

"Some scenarios could result in reduced payout for health care claims in 2020, but it is still too early to tell," Blue Cross spokesperson Helen Stojic said in an email.

Nearly all Michigan health insurers, including Blue Cross, have agreed to waive all patient deductibles, copays and co-insurance for coronavirus treatment and testing.

Rebates still possible

There is a mechanism in place for health insurers to give rebates to their customers should they overcharge them.

The Affordable Care Act required insurers to spend at least 80 cents of every $1 they collect for individual and small group insurance plans on paying out claims, and 85 cents of every $1 for claims in large group plans.

Insurance plans that fail to meet those thresholds, known as a medical loss ratios, must send rebate checks to their customers the following year. In 2018, Michigan health insurers gave nearly $20 million in rebates to just over 191,000 customers, an average of $104 per family, according to the consumer website healthinsurance.org.

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★ Disability Compensation benefits for prior conditions, diseases or injuries that occurred in service or many years later as a result of service (e.g. Agent Orange Exposure, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – combat or personal trauma) to name a few.

★ PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center that comes to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

Lakeland resumes select surgeries, appointments

11th COVID-19 death reported in Berrien County

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Spectrum Health Lakeland announced Wednesday that it will resume select surgeries, procedures, clinic appointments, outpatient therapies and radiology studies that were previously deferred in anticipation of a COVID-19 patient surge.

The decision comes as a result of predictive models which show social distancing efforts have helped flatten the curve across the state, including Southwest Michigan, according to a news release.

"A month ago, we didn't fully understand COVID-19 and the impact it would have on our nation," said Loren Hamel, president of Spectrum Health Lakeland, in the release. "Now, we know what we're dealing with and how COVID-19 affects our patients and team members. As a result, we have taken a number of steps to limit the spread of the virus and are fully prepared to keep our community safe as we work to adjust to this new normal."

Lakeland physicians will review all surgeries, radiology exams, and in-person clinic visits and contact patients directly if they determine their appointment or procedure is appropriate to be rescheduled in the near future.

Lakeland is taking extra precautions to ensure all facilities are prepared to safely care for patients with non-COVID-19 needs including visitor restrictions, enhanced disinfection and hand washing practices, screening of everyone who enters the facilities for symptoms, and enhanced masking guidelines for both patients and team members.

A designated COVID-19 unit has also been established at Lakeland Medical Center with enhanced isolation protocols in place to limit potential exposure to other areas of the facility.

All Spectrum Health Lakeland walk-in clinics and emergency departments remain open to provide care for time-sensitive needs. Providers at Lakeland Medical Practices are also available to care for patients in-person or through virtual visits.

Patients experiencing chest pains, stroke symptoms, or other medical emergencies should not hesitate to call 9-1-1 or visit the closest emergency room.

Another death reported in Berrien County

The Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) reported an 11th death from COVID-19 in Berrien County on Wednesday.

In addition, the BCHD reported that the county now has 177 confirmed positive cases of the virus, up from 170 reported Tuesday.

Out of the 177 cases, 110 of those people have recovered.

There are 171 presumed positive cases, the same number reported Tuesday.

Cass County gained just one case over Tuesday, now up to 23 confirmed positive cases. The county has one death and one recovered.

In Van Buren County, the number of positive cases was at 36 Wednesday, up two cases from Tuesday. The county has two deaths and seven recovered.

The state and county health departments update the number of positive COVID-19 cases at about 3 p.m. each day. For state numbers, visit www.michigan.gov/coronavirus.

Local numbers and information can be found at www.bchdmi.org, and at www.vbcassdhd.org/covid-19.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

LIGHTS OF SUPPORT

Don Campbell / HP staff

Lighted rooms at the Inn at Harbor Shores in St. Joseph form a heart this weekend as the country and the world continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bronson Healthcare temporarily furloughs non-clinical workers

SH hospital remains on original time table

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — While Bronson Healthcare System moves forward on construction of its new $22 million hospital in South Haven, the regional healthcare group has announced it will need to make a number temporary budget cuts.

In a news release, Bronson officials stated that "like other health systems across the nation, Bronson has seen its expenses rise significantly due to preparations and purchases related to COVID-19. At the same time, the health system is experiencing losses in revenue due to the suspension of elective surgeries and procedures, temporary closings of some services, as well as reduced diagnostic tests, office visits and emergency department visits as patients remain at home."

In an interview with WWMT-TV Tuesday evening, Bronson President and CEO Bill Manns said the hospital's monthly revenue was down 50 percent, which has forced them to set up a recovery plan to help recoup financial losses.

To deal with the downturn in revenue amid the pandemic, Bronson is making the following cutbacks:

■ Due to the work slowdown, furloughs will be implemented over the next few weeks for several hundred mostly non-clinical employees. The news release did not specify which non-clinical workers would be furloughed and hospital officials could not be reached for further comment on Wednesday. The furloughs are expected to be for 16 weeks, however, some employees may be called back sooner as their areas ramp back up.

Becky Kark / For The Herald-Palladium

As construction continues on Bronson Healthcare Group's $22 million new hospital in South Haven, Bronson officials announced several hundred layoffs of non-clinic workers due to the reduction in revenues caused by the Covid-10 pandemic. To deal with patients affected with the virus, Bronson, like many hospitals has had to cut back on elective surgeries and procedures.

In the WWMT-TV interview with Manns, he stated, "We are continuing their health benefits up until this point. We have been matching their PTO (paid time off) which is huge. We've been providing free child care. This really is a furlough and we are looking forward to bringing those employees back," Other cutbacks follow:

■ Manns will take a 25-percent reduction in salary through Aug. 15. Bronson executives and leaders will also see salary reductions for the same time period. Bronson Medical Group providers will also see their pay reduced.

■ Contributions to employee retirement accounts and 403b/401k matches are being suspended for the remainder of the year. Employees can still make personal contributions, however.

"We are working to adapt to continuing COVID-19 care while still safely serving all of our patients," Manns said in the release. "We are starting to ramp up surgeries and other procedures within the scope of the governor's order with a goal of having our hospitals back to 100 percent by September and our practices, many of which have been doing video visits, at 100 percent by August. If we can do it sooner, we will. However, the availability of enough PPE to ensure the safety of our staff and patients in all settings continues to be a limiting factor."

Bronson is pursuing opportunities for financial reimbursement and grants, including FEMA reimbursement, CARES Act relief grants and other state and federal relief opportunities. However, the timing of these is unpredictable, company officials indicated.

Predictive models now seem to indicate Southwest Michigan may experience ongoing community spread of COVID-19 into the fall rather than an overwhelming surge this spring, assuming responsible social distancing continues after the governor's order expires.

Bronson officials say they are prepared for a surge, but are hoping for the best. They said they appreciate how people are providing financial and supply donations and doing their part to social distance and flatten of the curve.

"The efforts have contributed to Bronson having a manageable number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 along with adequate staffing and supply levels to meet their needs at this time," the Bronson news release stated.

But because of the revenue that has been lost to the reduction in services normally offered, Bronson had to make some cutbacks.

Despite the cutbacks, Bronson officials say the healthcare group will continue to proceed with major projects including seven offices for Bronson Primary Care Partners, which will open on July 1; the new lab at Bronson Methodist Hospital opening in late July; and the Bronson Cancer Pavilion in Kalamazoo and the new Bronson South Haven Hospital, which are both slated to open in early 2021.

Murder of BH man leads to 12 arrests in Kalamazoo

9 of the arrested are from Benton Harbor

By RYAN BOLDREY
mlive.com

KALAMAZOO — Twelve arrests were made in Kalamazoo over the weekend after public safety officers received information that "retaliation was imminent" over an April 11 homicide that took the life of 26-year-old Benton Harbor man Londrell Cook.

Cook was gunned down at around 6:30 a.m. Saturday, April 11 in the 800 block of Woodbury Avenue in Kalamazoo's Northside neighborhood. Upon arrival on the scene, officers located Cook and one other individual with gunshot wounds.

Cook died later that morning at an area hospital.

The second individual, as well as a third who showed up at an area hospital later that morning, were both treated and released with non-life threatening injuries, Kalamazoo Public Safety Assistant Chief David Boysen told MLive.

Over the past week, information was obtained by public safety officers that a group from Benton Harbor was going to travel to Kalamazoo last weekend in an attempt to seek retribution. A news release issued Monday by the department states that officers were able to identify key people on both sides of the dispute.

The department then began targeted enforcement, which resulted in the arrests of nine Benton Harbor men ranging in age from 17-24, as well as the arrests of three Kalamazoo men.

At about 12:30 a.m. Sunday, April 19, Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team investigators and public safety officers intercepted three vehicles in the 400 block of Drexel Avenue that had just arrived in Kalamazoo from Benton Harbor. Occupants of two of the vehicles were detained on scene, the release states. Seven subjects and three handguns were located inside the two vehicles.

The third vehicle fled from the officers and the two occupants were detained after a vehicle pursuit that ended in the 1300 block of Princeton Avenue, the release states. One handgun was recovered from the vehicle.

The nine Benton Harbor men were all arrested and their firearms were seized by authorities, the release states. The individuals were all lodged at the Kalamazoo County Jail and held on various charges including carrying concealed weapons, fleeing and eluding, resisting and obstructing arrest, and conspiracy to commit murder.

Three individuals from Kalamazoo were also arrested over the weekend.

At about 4 p.m. Saturday, April 18, investigators from KVET and Kalamazoo Public Safety apprehended the first of the involved subjects in a traffic stop in the 3600 block of West Michigan Avenue. The subject, a 29-year-old Kalamazoo man, was found in possession of a stolen handgun and methamphetamine, and lodged at the jail on weapons and drug charges, the release states.

Less than two hours later, at 5:50 p.m., a second involved subject, a 30-year-old Kalamazoo man, was arrested in the 4400 block of Stadium Drive and found to be in possession of a loaded AR-style rifle and methamphetamine. He was also lodged at the jail on drug and weapons charges, according to the release.

A 12th individual was arrested early Monday morning after officers responded to a report of gunshots being fired in the 700 block of South Howard Street.

The arrest did not come without a chase.

Officers arrived on scene to find several spent bullet casings in a parking lot, along with a loaded handgun, the release states.

A witness provided a description of a vehicle the suspect fled in and later in the morning public safety officers were able to locate the vehicle. After the vehicle failed to stop for officers, according to the release, a pursuit began.

The pursuit ended in the 200 block of Grandview Avenue in Kalamazoo after the suspect "intentionally crashed into one of the pursuing Kalamazoo Public Safety vehicles," the release states.

The suspect, a 17-year-old Kalamazoo male, ran from the scene on foot and was later apprehended by a public safety officer and his K-9 partner Axl after he was found hiding under a car in the 200 block of West Maple Street. The suspect was arrested and lodged at the Kalamazoo County Jail on the charges or fleeing and eluding, resisting and obstructing arrest and felonious assault.

Kalamazoo Public Safety encourages anyone with information regarding this investigation to contact the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety at 269-488-8911, Silent Observer at 269-343-2100 or report online at www.kalamazoosilentobserver.com.

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

La PORTE

Charmig
2 bedroom apt.

No pets!

$600 per month
Plus utilities

219-872-4731

Michigan City, IN
Gorgeous, historic apartments
all hardwood floors
All appliances included, half basement with washer and dryer.
4 bedroom
$900/mos.
Front & rear porch.
2 / 1 bedrooms
$800 each
All incl.
Call Mike
(219) 465-8884

DUPLEXES FOR RENT

Stevensville, MI
Duplex for Rent
2 bdrm Apt
1150 sq ft
1 car garage
on N Karen Court
$800/month
Mowing Lawn,
Plowing Snow incl
Call 269-429-3024

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LEGALS

LEGALS

Hagar Township is holding an electronic Special Meeting on May 4th, at 6pm in order to accept the resignation of Township Trustee, Beth Raiser, and to authorize advertisement of the Trustee vacancy. Residents and interested individuals can join the electronic meeting from their homes by calling with a cellphone or landline:
877 853 5257 US Toll-free

OR

888 475 4499 US Toll-free

Listen to the prompts through the phone and when asked enter Meeting ID: 878 7592 4138 #
The phone system will ask for a participant ID number, press #

Instructions to access electronic meeting online, using your computer or smartphone's audio/microphone or camera:

Visit this URL:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87875924138

Use Meeting ID: 878 7592 4138

Careers are made in the Classifieds... Find One Today!

LEGALS

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing water tank located at 1314 Kalamazoo Street, South Haven, Van Buren, MI. The new facility will consist of the collocation of antennas at approximately 128 feet above ground level on the124-foot tall water tank. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6120002239-AMG EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (585) 815-3290.

PUBLIC NOTICE
**** HERBICIDE PROGRAM ****

The Berrien County Road Department hereby provides notice to the public and property owners adjacent to county roads of the 2020 Spring Herbicide Application Program for Roadside Right of Way.

Application will be made for control of noxious and broadleaf weeds in turf areas within guardrail zones. All application will be ground, foliar-applied, utilizing vehicular mounted hand gun equipment. The weed control application is designed to control and/or eliminate roadside weeds that could obstruct motorist's vision, create drainage obstacles or cause snow and icing problems, if left unchecked. The operation is not a continuous broadcast – only those roadsides areas where existing weeds and/or brush are creating safety hazards are treated.

Cyanamid Pendulum WDG, Dupont Oust, Miller Nu-Film IR and Glyphosate..

(LIST OF ROADS AVAILABLE AT BERRIEN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT MAIN OFFICE)

Application will be made between APRIL 27, 2020 to MAY 31, 2020.

All applications will be made by certified applicators contracted by the Berrien County Road Department:
TRUGREEN
3606 GAGNON STREET
SOUTH BEND, IN 46628

For further information contact:
ADRI BOONE
BERRIEN COUNTY ROAD DEPARTMENT
2860 E. NAPIER

Careers are made in the Classifieds... FIND ONE TODAY!

LEGALS

AVENUE
BENTON HARBOR, MI 49022
(269) 925-1196

This notice is published per Regulation 637 Act 171, Public Acts of 1976, as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMPLOYMENT

MEDICAL/DENTAL

Locally owned dental practice,

Michigan City Dental P.C.

Is looking for a:

- Dental Assistant,
- Cross-trained Front Desk Staff Member
- Dental Hygienist.

Fore more information please email MichiganCityDental@gmail.com

GENERAL HELP

Riverside, MI
Hagar Township is seeking a Maintenance Supervisor.
Letters of interest and resume due to Township Hall by 1:00 PM on Thurs, May 7, 2020.
Job description is posted at the Township Hall or email hagarclerk@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

GALIEN TOWNSHIP
305 Kiley Drive,
P.O Box 246,
Galien, MI 49113
269-545-8143

Galien Township Sexton Position Available

The Galien Township Board is seeking a Cemetery Sexton. Duties will include opening and closing of graves, snow plowing and pouring of foundations. Interested parties should submit a letter of interest along with references to the Galien Township PO Box 246, Galien, MI 49113 or by email to jen.galientwp@gmail.com.
Letters and references due by May 18th.

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

MERCHANDISE

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

40" FLAT SCREEN
VIZIO TV
$75
Call (219) 872-4092

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE

Benton Harbor, MI
3 Pillars Music is looking to buy record albums from 1970s to present, older guitars and music memorabilia. Please contact Tom at 269-313-7001 or 3pillarsmusic@gmail.com

Watervliet, MI
Buying junk Vehicles & Scrap Metal
Call Ray @
269-463-3565

MISC. ITEMS FOR SALE

Benton Harbor, MI
Oliver Supreme
20 bushel manure spreader $225
269-944-5729

PETS

CATS/DOGS/PETS

Coloma, MI
Great Pyrenees Puppies
Males and Females
Vaccinated,
Wormed,
Ready to go home.
Can show outside for safety.
$300
Text or call:
269-944-1294

DOG TRAINER
Will make house calls.
269-612-2004

FARM

FARM EQUIPMENT

Michigan City, IN
Hay for sale
first through third cutting
has never been rained on
219-879-5684

TRANSPORTATION

BOAT SLIPS

Marina Park South
50' Boat Slips (2)
Many Amenities
Call 219-929-8858

New Buffalo, MI
41' Boat Slip
$17,000
Includes all Amenities
Call 708-799-9469

MOTORCYCLES

MOTORCYCLES WANTED

All makes/models
Harley Davidson
Honda, Yamaha
Suzuki, Kawasaki
Ducati, KTM
Triumph
"Dead or Alive"
$$ Cash Paid $$
Reasonable
Will pick up
630-660-0571

Responding to employment ads that contain a Herald-Palladium box #

No telephone calls please! We will not reveal the name of the box holder.
(A) Reply with your sealed letter Addressed as follows:

Box (# that appears in ad)
c/o the Herald-Palladium
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then: B) attach a note listing which firms are NOT to receive your letter; and (C) send every thing in ANOTHER E N V E L O P E addressed as follows:

The Herald-Palladium
Classified Department
P.O. Box 128
St. Joseph, MI
49085-0128

If the advertiser is among the names you don't want to contact, we will destroy your sealed letter.

E-Mail Responses

You may also reply to ads with Herald-Palladium box numbers by e-mail. Do not attach your resume rather type it or copy & paste it directly into your e-mail program. Send your e-mail to: jobs@heraldpalladium.com

If you wish to reply to a box number and NOT have your letter sent to certain firms, then begin your e-mail with any company(s) where you do not wish to apply. Then include the Herald-Palladium box address as shown above.

Employment Advertisers Who Wish to Remain Anonymous

To protect our readers, Herald-Palladium policy requires that all companies list their names when placing ads in our publication. Employment advertisers who wish to remain anonymous must rent Herald-Palladium boxes so that we can insure our readers that they are not responding to their current employers or any other company to which they do not wish to apply.

Box Charges

Boxes are reserved for 30 days after last day of ad publication. The charge is:
$10. per box- you pick-up responses.
$15. per box - We fax all responses to you on a daily basis.
$25. per box- We mail responses to you once per week.
When readers respond to your ad via e-mail, we will forward them to you immediately if you provide us with an e-mail address or we will print and handle them in the manner that you request.

The Herald-Palladium

CARPENTRY

Richter's Carpentry
Specializing in basement remodeling, drywall, drop ceilings, doors & trim.
No job too small.
20+ years in Business.
944-0236

ROOFING

Demler Roofing
Over 40 Years Experience
Baroda, MI
269-422-2542
Licensed & Insured
Shingles are our Specialty

Grow your business!
Call Angelique
at 855-317-4292
Ex. 701,
to find out how

Complete Tree Service
- Senior & Veteran Discounts -

Willie Nearn Jr.
and Associates
269-532-8156
Making things happen by getting things done
TRIM YOUR TREES BEFORE THE LEAVES!

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

A steady balance will be required. Opportunities are building, and recognizing a good deal will be important. Using your intuition and staying on top of what's doable and what isn't will be crucial to your success. You have plenty to gain if you are astute and don't waste time speculating.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Don't get stressed over the inevitable. If you keep your thoughts to yourself, you'll be able to work toward your goal without interference. Do your best and hone your skills.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Move forward regardless of what others do. Surround yourself with like-minded people. Follow your heart, not someone else's words. An important relationship should be a priority.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) An up-front attitude regarding what you are willing to give and what you expect in return is encouraged. Don't linger over unfinished business; it's time to get things done.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Plan a trip that will benefit you personally, professionally or educationally. Get back to doing the things you enjoy most. A new challenge will spark your enthusiasm.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) A personal assessment will encourage you to let go of what's no longer working and get on with your life. Don't be afraid to invest time and money if the returns look promising.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Satisfy your curiosity, do things differently and make new acquaintances. The possibilities are endless if you visit places and do things that are conducive to networking.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Grudges and revenge are a waste of time. Free your mind and engage in activities that promote creativity instead of fear. Positive thoughts change the way you live.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) An unexpected change at home will leave you wondering what to do next. Nurture meaningful relationships and distance yourself from troublemakers. Put home and family, not work, first.

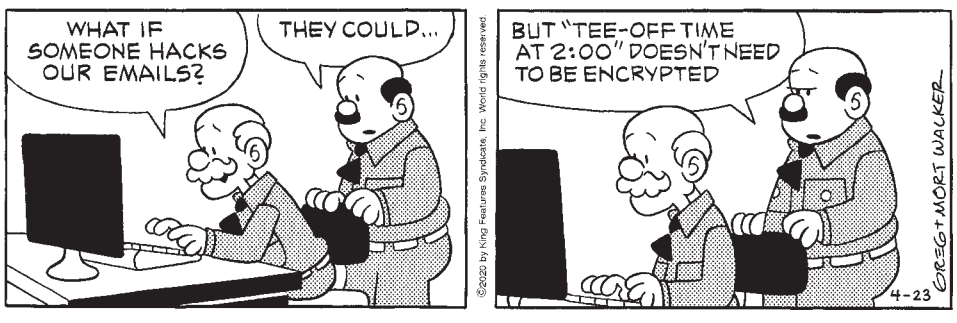
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Let your wisdom and experience lead the way. Say no to an ultimatum or anyone trying to control your actions. Protect what you've worked so hard to achieve.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Hone your skills and look for alternative ways to earn extra cash. You have a wealth of talent that you could be putting to good use. Don't hold back when you have so much to gain.

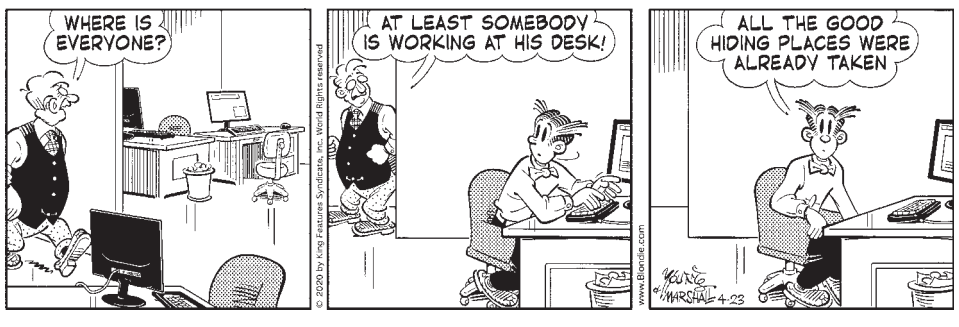
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Take a new approach to an old idea. Don't let fear set in when change is what you need. Let your intuition guide you, and embrace the future with optimism.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) A partnership will face turmoil if you cannot agree. Consider the compromises as well as the gains before making a decision. Address problems promptly in order to ease stress.

BEETLE BAILEY



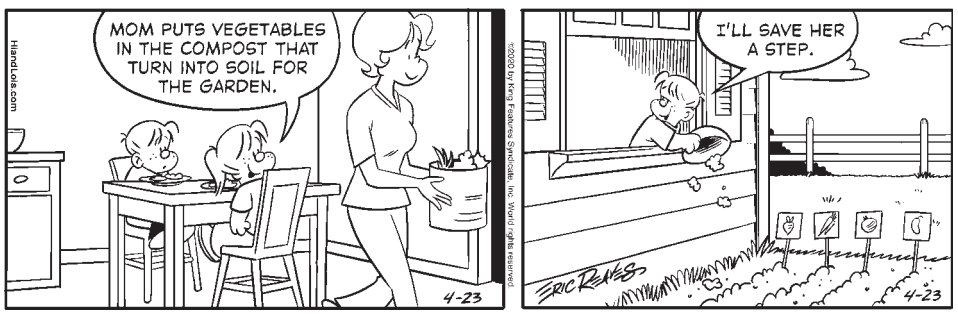
BLONDIE


WHERE IS EVERYONE?
AT LEAST SOMEBODY IS WORKING AT HIS DESK!
ALL THE GOOD HIDING PLACES WERE ALREADY TAKEN
YOUNG MARSHALL 4-23

FAMILY CIRCUS

DENNIS THE MENACE

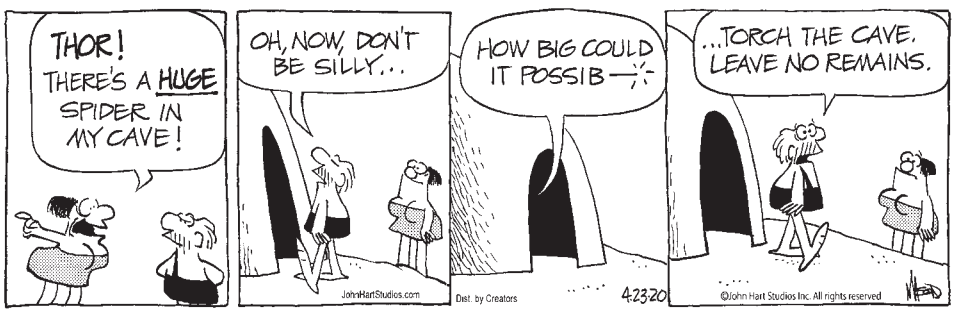
HI & LOIS



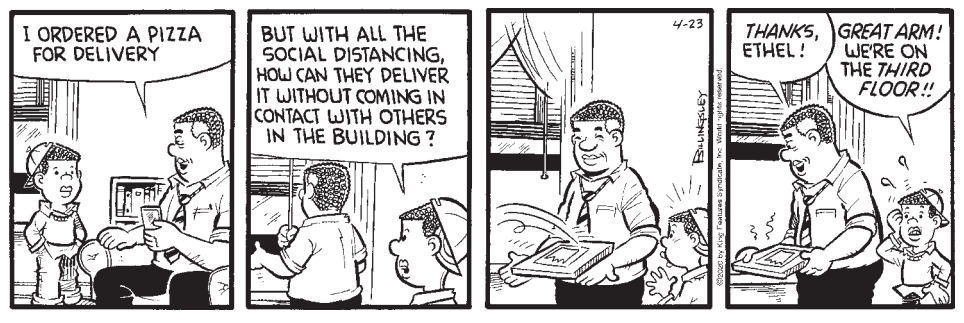
BABY BLUES

MOM, WE HAVE THIS SIGNED PETITION TO HAVE DESSERT SERVED FIRST.
THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN. YOU CAN'T DENY THEM.
THIS IS JUST YOUR NAME AND A JELLY SMUDGE.
THE SMUDGE IS WREN'S SIGNATURE. IT'S OFFICIAL.

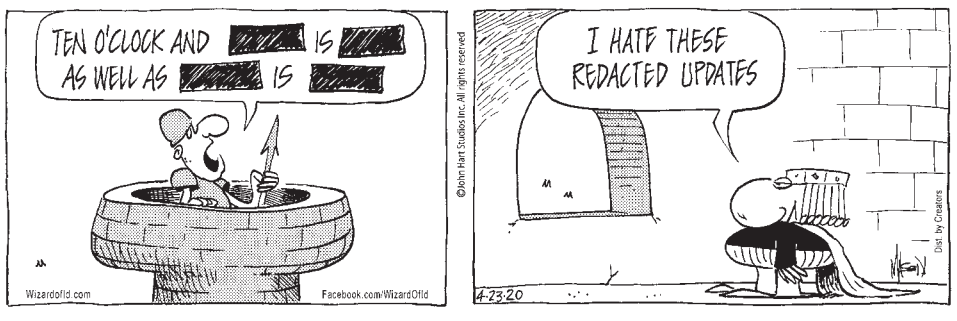
BC


THOR! THERE'S A HUGE SPIDER IN MY CAVE!
OH, NOW, DON'T BE SILLY...
HOW BIG COULD IT POSSIB—
...TORCH THE CAVE. LEAVE NO REMAINS.
JohnHartStudios.com
Dist. by Creators
4-23-20
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved

CURTIS


I ORDERED A PIZZA FOR DELIVERY
BUT WITH ALL THE SOCIAL DISTANCING, HOW CAN THEY DELIVER IT WITHOUT COMING IN CONTACT WITH OTHERS IN THE BUILDING?
4-23
THANKS, ETHEL!
GREAT ARM! WE'RE ON THE THIRD FLOOR!!

WIZARD OF ID

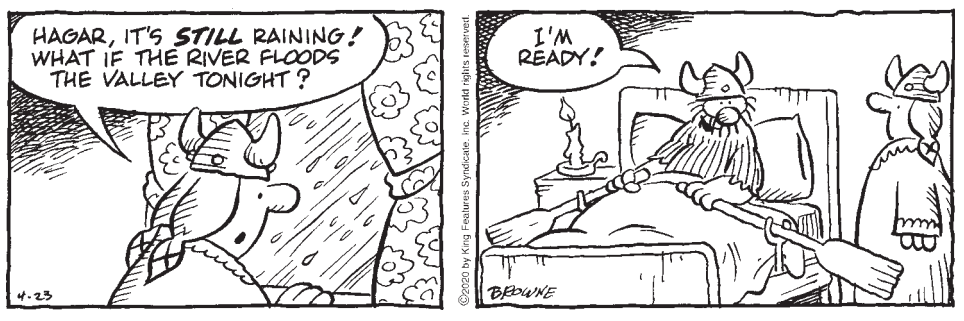

TEN O'CLOCK AND [redacted] IS [redacted] AS WELL AS [redacted] IS [redacted]
I HATE THESE REDACTED UPDATES
Wizardofid.com
Facebook.com/WizardOfId
©John Hart Studios Inc. All rights reserved
Dist. by Creators
4-23-20

ZITS

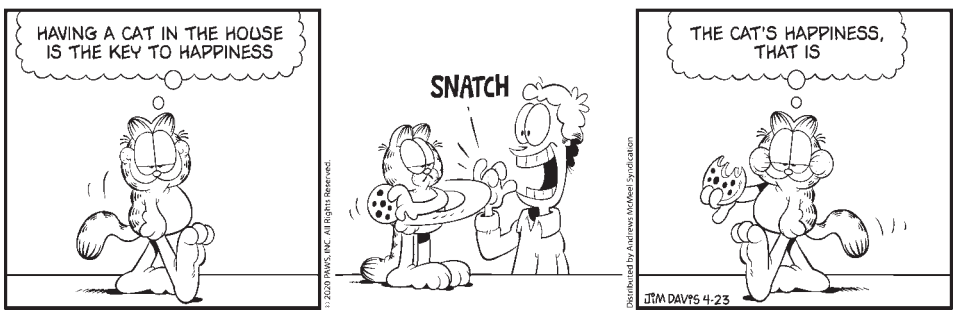
DILBERT

DAY ONE OF WORKING FROM HOME
I'M GETTING A LOT DONE.
DAY TWO OF WORKING FROM HOME
IF I GOOFED OFF A LITTLE, WOULD ANYONE KNOW?
DAY THREE OF WORKING FROM HOME.
LAME FORT.
IT'S VERSION 1.0.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
4-23-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

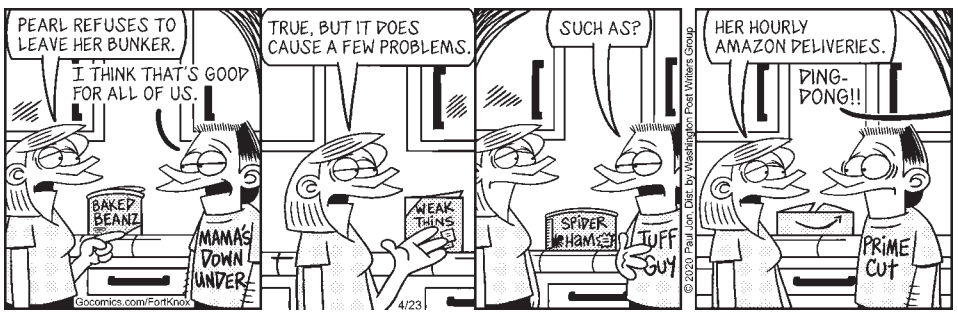


GARFIELD


HAVING A CAT IN THE HOUSE IS THE KEY TO HAPPINESS
SNATCH
THE CAT'S HAPPINESS, THAT IS
JIM DAVIS 4-23
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

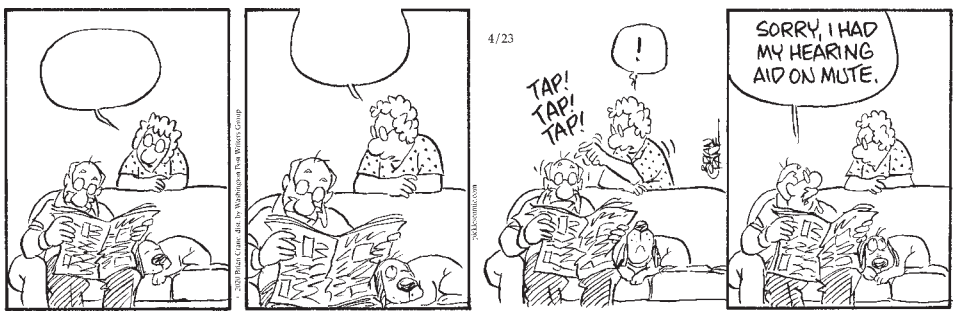
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

FORT KNOX

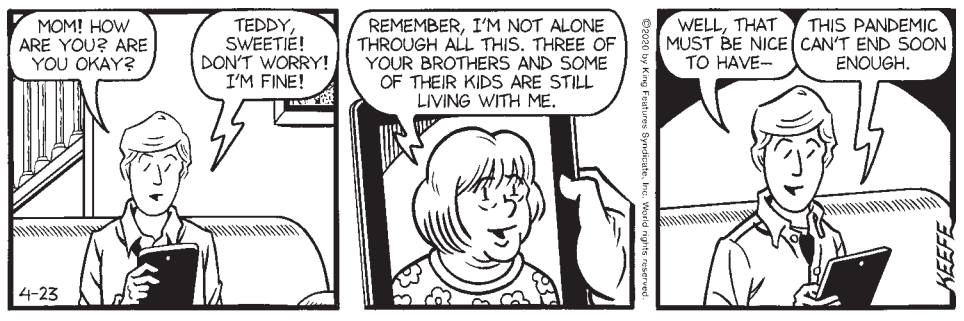


MUTTS

PICKLES



SALLY FORTH


MOM! HOW ARE YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?
TEDDY, SWEETIE! DON'T WORRY! I'M FINE!
REMEMBER, I'M NOT ALONE THROUGH ALL THIS. THREE OF YOUR BROTHERS AND SOME OF THEIR KIDS ARE STILL LIVING WITH ME.
WELL, THAT MUST BE NICE TO HAVE--
THIS PANDEMIC CAN'T END SOON ENOUGH.
4-23
KEEFE

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@HeraldPalladium

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The Herald-Palladium

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Dave Brown
@HPEditor

Dale Brewer
@HPBrewer

Jason Mitchell
@HPJasonMitchell

Andy Steinke
@DecodingDadhood

Don Campbell
@HPDonCampbell

Tony Wittkowski
@TonyWittkowski

Alexandra Newman
@HPANewman

Louise Wrege
@HPWrege

Jane Ammeson
@HPAmmeson

John Matuszak
@HPMatuszak

Julie Swidwa
@HPSwidwa

Ben Sanders
@HPBenSanders

Maxwell Harden
@HPMaxwellHarden

Ben Spencer
@HPBenSpencer

PRIME TIME TV

THURSDAY EVENING APR. 23

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	2020 NFL Draft Interviews and highlights with the players selected in the first round by NFL teams. (N) (L) CC					
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	Young Sheldon	Man With a Plan (N)	:01 Mom CC	Broke (N) CC	Tommy "Packing Heat" (N) CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	Superstore (N)	Brooklyn Nine-Nine	Will & Grace	Will & Grace (N)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit (N)	
FOX 17 222 28 32	Modern Family	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	:01 Mental Samurai "Week Four"		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Radar-Michigan	Poldark on Masterpiece CC		Father Brown "The Chedworth Cyclone"		Antiques Roadshow (Part 1 of 3) CC	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Katy Keene "Chapter Ten: Gloria" (N)		In the Dark Murphy gets a surprise visit.		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud (N)	Chicago P.D. "Little Bit of Light"		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC		Law & Order: Criminal Intent CC	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Katy Keene "Chapter Ten: Gloria" (N)		In the Dark Murphy gets a surprise visit.		2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland CC (DVS)		Highway to Heaven CC		Nightly News	
WGN 9	News	black-ish "God"	black-ish CC	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48 "The Standoff" (N) CC		The First 48: Catching a Killer (N) CC		60 Days In (N) CC	
AMC	5:30 Top Gun	★★★ Gladiator ('00) Russell Crowe, Joaquin Phoenix. A fugitive general becomes a gladiator in ancient Rome. CC					
Animal	Last	The Last Alaskans: Arctic Refuge "Under Pressure" (N)					
BET	6:30 ★ Baggage Claim			★★ Stomp the Yard ('07) CC			
Big Ten	BTN in 60	BTN Basketball in 60		The Journey		BTN Basketball in 60	
Bravo	Housewives	Housewives/NYC		Housewives/NYC		Top Chef "Get Your Phil" (N) CC	
Cartoon	Gumball	Home	Burgers	Burgers	Rick	American	American
Cinemax	5:45 Savages	★ Breaking In ('18) Gabrielle Union, Billy Burke. CC			★★★ Widows ('18) Viola Davis, Colin Farrell. CC		
CMT	Last Man	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls
CNBC	CNBC	Shark Tank		Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank CC	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
Discovery	Afraid	Naked and Afraid CC		Naked and Afraid Pop-Up Edition (N)		Naked and Afraid Pop-Up Edition (N)	
Disney	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Raven	Just Roll	Gabby	Coop
DIY	Pool	Insane Pools		Insane Pools		Insane Pools	
E!	Kardas	The Kardashians		Total Bellas (N)		The Kardashians	
ESPN	NFL Draft	2020 NFL Draft (N) (L)					
ESPN2	:00 UFC Reloaded			The Last Dance		The Last Dance	
ESPNC	Football	College Football				College Football	
Food	Grocery	Guy's Games		Food Truck Race		Restaurant: Im.	
Fox News	The Story	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Basket.	Detroit Pistons Classics (N)				Polaris	Golf Life
Freefrm	★★★ Pretty Woman ('90, Romance-Comedy) Richard Gere, Julia Roberts, Ralph Bellamy. CC					Siren Ryn returns to land to explore. (N)	
FX	★★★ Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle ('17, Adventure) Dwayne Johnson, Kevin Hart, Jack Black. CC					Better Things	:44 Breeders
Golf	:00 LPGA Tour Golf				PGA Tour Golf CC		
Hallmark	6:00 Yes, I Do	Love and Sunshine ('19, Romance) Danica McKellar, Mark Deklin. CC				Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HBO	:20 ★★★ American Pie ('99, Comedy) Jason Biggs. CC			We're Here "Gettysburg, Pennsylvana"		Westworld "Decoherence" Therapy.	
History	Pickers	American Pickers		:02 American Pickers		:05 American Pickers	
HGTV	Home	Flip	Flip	Flipping	Flipping	Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	My 600-	My 600-Lb. Life Coliesa's reasons to live.				Dr. Pimple Popper	
Lifetime	King of Queens	Married at First Sight "Couples Couch: Reunion" The five couples reunite. (N) CC				King of Queens	King of Queens
MSNBC	Decision	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Jersey	Jersey Shore		Families of the Mafia		Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Sports	White Sox Rewind From June 30, 2005.				Insd.	Sneaker
NFL	NFL Total	2020 NFL Draft Coverage of round 1 of the NFL Draft. (N) CC					
Nick	Sponge.	Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs				Friends	Friends
NGEO	Troopers	Alaska-Trooper		Alaska-Trooper		Alaska-Trooper	
Oxygen	Deadly Cults	Mark of a Killer "Deadly Design" (N)		Snapped "Jamie Grachek" CC		Snapped "Karen Sanchez" CC	
Parmt	Two Men	★★★ Shrek ('01, Children's) CC				Shrek Forever After	
Showtime	★★ The Upside	Shameless "Pilot" CC		Homeland "The English Teacher" CC		Desus & Mero	Californication
Starz	:20 ★★ First Sunday ('08) Ice Cube, Katt Williams. CC			★★ Overcomer ('19, Drama) Alex Kendrick, Shari Rigby. CC			
STZENC	The Nutty Professor	Vida "Episode 13"	:35 Vida CC	:10 Vida CC	:45 Vida "Episode 16" CC		Live Free-Die
SyFy	:31 ★★★ Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince ('09) Daniel Radcliffe. New dangers lurk for Harry, Dumbledore and their friends. CC (DVS)						
TBS	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory
TCM	7 Days in May	★★★ The Goodbye Girl ('77) Richard Dreyfuss, Marsha Mason. CC				★★★ The Sunshine Boys ('75)	
TMC	Against Ropes	★★ Mile 22 ('18) Mark Wahlberg, Lauren Cohan. CC			:35 ★★ The Hummingbird Project ('18) Jesse Eisenberg.		
TNT	:00 Central Intelligence			Shaq Life	Shaq Life	Central Intelligence	
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Adventures		Ghost Adventures		The Dead Files (N)	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Two Men	Two Men
USA	:00 Psych CC	Psych What life would have been like.		Psych "Yang 3 in 2D" CC		Psych Shawn discovers a body. CC	
VH1	6:30 ★★ Bad Boys II ('03) Martin Lawrence.					Wild/Out	Wild/Out
WGN-A	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met	How I Met

Mom on fixed income supports a house full of freeloaders

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My grandson, his girlfriend and, recently, my son (who had to move in) are living with me. She is the only one working. My grandson has been sitting on his butt the last 2 1/2 years and does minimal work here in my home. All three of these "adults" live here for free. I am 79 and on a fixed income. I pay for everything.

They were supposed to be saving money so they could get a place of their own. That's a big joke. All they do is spend, spend, spend. They sleep all day and play games on their computers all night. I have seriously considered shutting off the internet (which I pay for) to see what they would do.

I have been talking to a counselor due to my stress and anger issues. The counselor has strongly advised me to evict them. My daughter told me if I do, I'll never see her or my two young grandchildren again. She means it.

I'm tired of being the caregiver. I feel used, but can't set boundaries very well. I'm also afraid of my 24-year-old grandson, who has terrible anger issues and who put his fist through a wall when I called him lazy. Should I put them out or, to keep peace in the family, continue to let them use me? – Used Up

DEAR USED UP: There will never be peace in your family as long as you allow yourself to be held hostage by threats and intimidation. Your anger and boundary issues will resolve themselves if you act on the advice your therapist is giving you and evict these parasites.

First, discuss this with a lawyer to see what steps you must take, and because you fear your grandson will become violent, you may need help from the authorities to guarantee your safety from him when he goes. As to your daughter, I predict she'll keep the grandchildren from you only until she needs something – so be prepared. And please, continue talking to your therapist, who seems to have more of your interests at heart than your family members.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are in our mid-40s with two kids (9 and 6). We are in the early stages of our estate planning, and of course the topic of who would look after our kids has been discussed.

Our first choice has lovingly agreed to have our kids join their family if my wife and I should die. However, many estate planning forms ask if there is a secondary option on who we want to be our children's guardians in case our primary choice can no longer fulfill that role. How do we tactfully ask our second choice if they are willing to be the backup? I worry that the couple may be offended that they aren't No. 1, and this may cause tension and seriously damage our relationship with them. – Parents In A Predicament

DEAR PARENTS: Do not offer apologies or explanations unless you must. Simply ask the backups if they would be willing to step in "should the need arise." If you are pressed about why they are not your first choice, answer honestly. Your reasons should be respected. This is not a popularity contest; it is a serious consideration for the future of your children.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Saying goodbye to the bachelorette pad

Carolyn Hax

Adapted from an online discussion.

DEAR CAROLYN: This weekend, my husband and toddler and I will be moving from the condo I bought six years ago as a 20-something bachelorette, in the downtown area I've loved and enjoyed so much, out to a townhouse in the suburbs. It will undoubtedly be great for us to have more space and for my son to have a yard to play in. Even more so if we have a second child, as we hope to.

But I am SAD. This condo was where most of my independent young adulthood happened, and I'm having a hard time accepting that that time is absolutely 100 percent over forever.

Do you have any words of wisdom about how to embrace the move to the 'burbs? Motherhood is insanely fulfilling, and all that stuff, but will I get used to the new way things are? – All grown up

All grown up: Maybe? Maybe not. Maybe your new situation will be so great that it eventually becomes the next great phase you mourn when it's over ... or your neighbors will annoy you or your neighborhood will be inconvenient or who knows. This is all a crap shoot and anyone who says otherwise is either lying or more cheerful than I am.

Crap shoot or not, though, you're going to age, and change, and your ages and changes will bring new changes, and there's no fighting it.

The best thing I can suggest to make this a positive experience versus a slow-motion sense of loss is to keep what was good about the old phases with you as reminders of what makes you happy – and to say goodbye warmly and finally to what isn't coming back. Your 20s, for example – big hug and goodbye. Your "downtown area I've loved and enjoyed so much," though? That had qualities and a vibe and whatever else that you can recognize and adapt to your new life.

You also can't lose by looking for, on purpose, the advantages your new location has over the old one. I left a beloved neighborhood myself, in D.C., but will never stop appreciating that in my current town, traffic doesn't exist.

If you struggle to find advantages to your new circumstances, then you can also decide this suburban-townhouse move was a nice try but not quite, and you can try again with a location that has more in common with your happy-condo setup. Kids grow up in cities all the time, and some of them love it, if you can afford clean and safe spaces for them and arrange for decent opportunities; kids (past the wiggle stage at least) are no different from adults in having varied preferences, from a big yard to a busy town, or a cold climate to a warm one, or whatever else. The common assumption that they all want or need a suburban yard is just that, an assumption.

This isn't to undermine the move decision – just to encourage a life-is-fluid mode of thinking. It's OK to be sad about the end of something, it means there was something to love about it; now look to the next phase knowing it's just a phase, too.

Email Carolyn at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

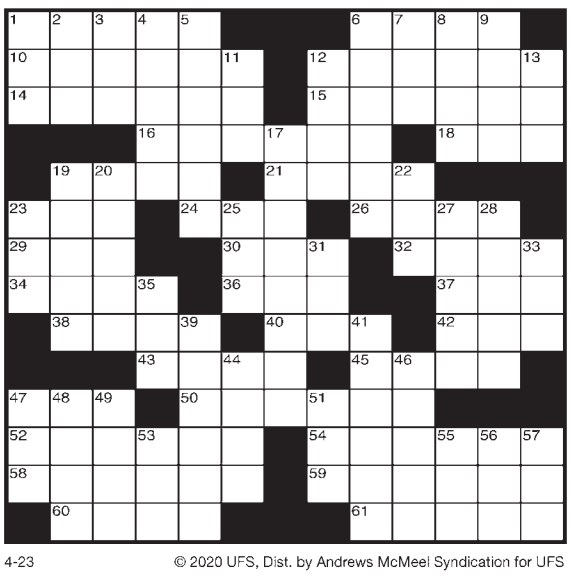
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Pastoral poem
6 Bandleader Artie —
10 Type of tire
12 Victim of Brutus
14 Soak up
15 Major banking center
16 Toyota rival
18 Egg — yung
19 Leaning Tower town
21 Baby buggy
23 Toupee kin
24 Numerical prefix
26 Not hidden
29 House addition
30 Corp. ending
32 Track event
34 Unhappy fate
36 Python or wrap
37 Funny Charlotte —
38 Cicero's garb
40 Brown-truck logo
42 Dublin's loc.
43 Ravioli filler
45 Treats shabbily
47 That, to Jaime
50 Rural
52 Sports injury
54 Even-tempered
58 Slice of veal
59 Era
60 Coloring materials
61 Monet contemporary

DOWN
1 S&L offering
2 Bit of paint
3 Fabric meas.
4 Wildebeest chasers
5 Cowboy gear
6 Steam baths
7 That ship
8 Oh, sure! (2 wds.)
9 Texas town
11 Scale abbr.
12 Movie mogul
13 Frat letter
17 Indy mishaps (hyph.)
19 Airline employee
20 Polar dwelling
22 Dues payer, for short
23 Meld
25 Josh
27 Like a wolf's howl
28 Advances
31 Twist-off —
33 Informal wear
35 "2001" studio
39 Cliffside nests
41 Looked good on
44 First cousin's mom
46 Alarm
47 PC key
48 Tater
49 Affected
51 Kitchen meas.
53 Pub pint
55 Like blue whales
56 Hawaii's Mauna —
57 Bradley and McBain

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	J	A	P	A	N			S	T	A	S	H
D	E	S	I	R	E		A	L	A	S	K	A
E	L	I	C	I	T		T	O	R	P	I	D
P	L	A	N	A		B	E	E	T			
T	O	N	I		B	A	N		A	G	U	E
			C	O	E	D			N	E	R	D
R	I	A		E	L	A	N	D		M	S	G
U	N	D		R	A	C	E	D		S	A	Y
S	C	A	M			T	A	T	A			
K	A	Y	O		D	O	T		G	A	S	P
			P	O	O	R		D	E	L	T	A
M	A	L	I	B	U		P	U	N	I	E	R
O	P	E	N	E	R		J	A	C	K	E	T
S	O	G	G	Y			S	L	Y	E	R	



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JUMBLE

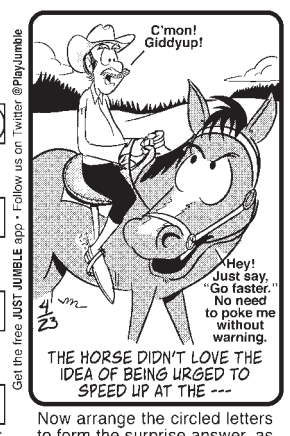
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LTESY

WOLRP

RMSEMU

NLOYFD


C'mon! Giddyup!
Hey! Just say, "Go faster." No need to poke me without warning.
THE HORSE DIDN'T LOVE THE IDEA OF BEING URGED TO SPEED UP AT THE ---

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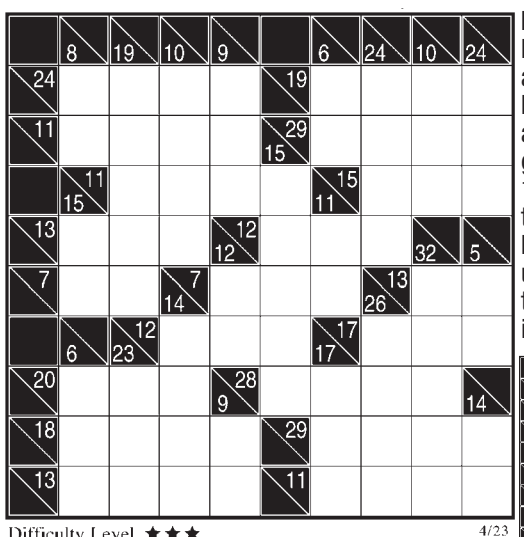
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE

(Answers tomorrow)

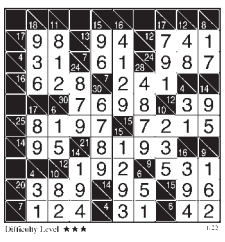
Yesterday's Jumbles: ELUDE KNOCK SCULPT PUPPET
Answer: To build a submarine to reach the ocean's lowest point, it took — DEEP POCKETS

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/23

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Outside a London nightclub, there was a poster proclaiming: "Six beautiful dancing girls! Five beautiful costumes!"

There is a bridge equivalent to this: the revealing pre-emptive bid. You have a two-way guess for a queen. If an opponent has opened with a high-level pre-empt, the natural reaction is to play his partner for the queen. But sometimes you don't need to guess; you can find out – as in today's deal.

Against four spades, West leads the heart king: four, ace, three. East returns the heart five: eight, 10, nine. Now West shifts to the club jack: queen, ace, seven. Back comes the club six, which South carefully ruffs high.

After drawing trumps, South has to find the diamond queen. A computer would know that with nine cards missing the queen, the a priori percentage play is to cash the ace and king. When the queen doesn't drop, it complains about bad luck.

The automaton assumes that, because West pre-empted, East must have the diamond queen. It cashes dummy's ace and leads the jack, preparing to finesse, but East's discard puts paid to that plan.

The thoughtful player tries to get a complete count of the deal. After drawing trumps, he cashes dummy's club king, discarding a diamond. When West fails to follow suit, South knows that West started with one spade, two clubs and at least six hearts, probably seven. This means he must have three or four diamonds.

Smiling inwardly, South plays the diamond jack to his king, then runs the diamond nine when West plays low. The finesse is sure to win.

North 04-23-20
♠ K Q J 2
♥ 9 4
♦ A J 10 3
♣ K Q 4

West
♠ 9
♥ K Q J 10 7 6 2
♦ Q 7 2
♣ J 9

East
♠ 7 6 3
♥ A 5
♦ 5
♣ A 10 8 6 5 3 2

South
♠ A 10 8 5 4
♥ 8 3
♦ K 9 8 6 4
♣ 7

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
	3♥	Dbl.	4♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ K

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

				5			6	9
				9	8			1
	1			7	4	5		3
6		3						
			7	1	9			
						2		8
9		7	5	8			1	
4			2	6				
1	3			4				

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	3	5	4	2	1	9	8	6
9	8	6	3	7	5	1	2	4
1	2	4	8	6	9	3	7	5
6	7	8	9	5	3	4	1	2
5	4	1	2	8	6	7	9	3
3	9	2	7	1	4	6	5	8
4	6	7	5	9	8	2	3	1
2	5	3	1	4	7	8	6	9
8	1	9	6	3	2	5	4	7

United Way, Area Agency on Aging to deliver food to seniors

Seniors asked to sign up for boxes to be delivered in May

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — The Area Agency on Aging and United Way are working together to deliver shelf-stable food to seniors in need.

The decision to do so came after the spread of COVID-19 created unique challenges for Southwest Michigan seniors. Many of the vital local systems that older adults have relied on for food have been put on temporary pause, leaving many seniors with limited options.

Recently, the state of Michigan bought 10,000 quarantine boxes, also known as "Q-Boxes," for the Area Agency on Aging network of Michigan to provide relief for seniors in need of shelf-stable food.

Three hundred of these boxes were designated for seniors, who are 60 and older, in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties.

Due to a coordinated effort between Region IV Area Agency on Aging and the United Way of Southwest Michigan (UWSM), the distribution of these boxes is on target for the week of May 4.

These boxes contain 33 well-balanced, high protein food items and can provide 22 adult meals. Each box contains breakfast, lunch and dinner recipe options for the contents in the box.

"These boxes of shelf-stable food are not only a great gift for our community, but will also alleviate some of the worry that many may feel at this time," Area Agency on Aging CEO Lynn Kellogg said in a news release. "Partnering with United Way of Southwest Michigan for this effort was a logical choice given their proven commitment to the senior population, as well as their ability to tap into a vast network of volunteers and organizers."

UWSM will begin accepting sign ups Thursday from any senior citizens, or people close to a senior, who would be helped by a Q-Box.

To sign up, call 982-4029. Food pick up times and locations will be given to seniors the week of May 4.

To sign up to volunteer to help distribute boxes, visit www.volunteer.uwsm.org. All volunteers will receive a background check prior to being assigned.

For more information or questions for Area Agency on Aging email Christine Vanlandingham at cvanlandingham@areaagencyonaging.org, or call 983-0177.

For information or questions for UWSM email amanda.drew@uwsm.org or call 982-4038.

BENTON HARBOR

Cemetery board remains undecided on new manager

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BENTON HARBOR — The management of Crystal Springs Cemetery is still up in the air, with members of the Benton Harbor Cemetery Board saying Tuesday that they need more information and would like more than one choice of who to hire.

Sean Fitzpatrick of Indiana, the only person to apply for the job, said his proposal to manage the cemetery includes the city paying him $7,500 a month for the first three years and his hiring of the current manager, Bert Edquist, as a consultant until he can get all of the equipment needed to handle the burials himself.

He said he would also keep all of the current staff, along with hiring someone to straighten out the records.

Fitzpatrick, an autopsy technician, said he has no direct experience managing cemeteries, but he has managed other properties.

Edquist has said in the past that the records were in horrible shape when he took over management in 2013, including that nobody knows who is buried in some of the unmarked graves and nobody knows how many of the vacant plots have already been sold for future burials. His contract with the city stipulates that he is not responsible for problems that came from decisions that were made before he took over management.

Last fall, he appeared before the city's legislative committee, asking that the city chip in $4,000 a month so he can maintain the cemeteries properly.

After that proposal was given a cold reception, he gave the city the required 120-day notice that he would no longer manage the cemetery starting March 15. Since then, the city has contracted him to handle the burials until the cemetery board can find a new manager. But under that agreement, he said he is not handling the grounds maintenance.

On Tuesday, Edquist said he could continue managing the cemetery on a month-to-month basis for $5,000 a month until a new manager is found or board members decide to manage the cemetery themselves.

Over the past few meetings, cemetery board members have said that if a request for proposal had been sent out looking for a new manager as soon as Edquist gave notice, they would have a choice of who to hire.

Fitzpatrick said he heard about the opening during his travels.

Clerk Kimberly Thompson said she would provide board members with the RFP that was sent out in 2013 by then-Emergency Manager Tony Saunders II.

Mayor Marcus Muhammad told cemetery board members that they need to hire their own attorney. A 1994 ruling by a Berrien County judge ordered the city not to interfere with cemetery affairs indefinitely.

The city owns two cemeteries – Morton Hill Cemetery, which is 2.78 acres and is fully developed, and Crystal Springs Cemetery, which is 120 acres, with only 65 acres developed.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor lands Heart of Cook award

By HP STAFF

BRIDGMAN — The Boy & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor recently received the first Earth Day Environmental Grant of $5,000 from the Indiana Michigan Power's Cook Nuclear Plant "Heart of Cook" grant committee.

The new Earth Day Environmental Grant helps fund a program or special project that promotes environmental science, education and sustainability, according to the press release from I&M.

"We wanted to introduce this new award in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day," said Blair Zordell, Cook Plant Environmental Specialist and chairperson of the newly formed Earth Day Environmental Grant Committee. "It just so happened that the Boys & Girls Clubs of Benton Harbor had a fantastic project in mind that brings three organizations together to help give kids an ongoing, hands-on learning experience with nature."

PhycoTech Inc. and Curious Kids' Museum are creating environmental science stations for an event that was supposed to happen around Earth Day in April, but is being moved due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Elements from this event will be incorporated into a permanent water quality exhibit at the CKM Discovery Zone, where grant funds will be used to purchase museum quality, robust microscopes.

Funds will also be used for raised garden beds that support the Positive Sprouts project, where club members manage gardens to provide fresh produce, apply STEM learning opportunities and increase their knowledge and awareness of environmental stewardship.

Money from the grant will further help purchase a trail-cam for the newly installed Eagle Scout project that incorporated 11 bird and bat boxes and native shrubs/trees along the back edge of the Boys and Girls Clubs' Nate Wells campus.

"We're thrilled to receive the inaugural Heart of Cook Earth Day Environmental Grant despite having to postpone the scheduled Earth Day project," said Brian Saxton, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Benton Harbor. "It's just a temporary setback, however, because the overall benefits will be long term."

The $5,000 Heart of Cook Earth Day Environmental Grant opportunity will be awarded again in 2021. Other nonprofit organizations that want to make a positive impact on our environment will be eligible to apply. Beginning in mid-November, the grant application will be available through the Berrien Community Foundation website. A team of Cook employees will review the applications, select a winner and publicly announce the award on Earth Day 2021.

26 percent of Detroit nursing home residents are testing positive for coronavirus, mayor says

By MATT DURR
mlive.com

DETROIT — People living at nursing homes in Detroit are testing positive for coronavirus exposure at a rate of 26 percent, city officials said Wednesday.

Mayor Mike Duggan announced the findings during his daily press briefing Wednesday, April 22. Duggan, along with Denise Fair, the city's chief health officer, said testing has been done at 21 of 26 facilities in the city so far.

Duggan said about 75 percent of nursing home residents have been tested so far and all are expected to be tested by the end of Thursday. Getting everyone who lives at works are the facilities tested is important to help determine the next steps as the city continues to battle the virus.

"There are so many COVID-19 positive people in our community who aren't showing symptoms that it is was virtually impossible to separate in a nursing home setting the infectious from the non-infectious," Duggan said. "You had no way of knowing without a test that probably wouldn't come back for five or six days."

There's 'no way' Detroit's annual fireworks display happens as scheduled, mayor says

The city has tested 1,445 people at nursing homes and confirmed 357 cases of COVID-19 in those people. The city says 129 people at nursing homes in Detroit have died of the illness caused by the new coronavirus, which is in line with rate of overall COVID-19 deaths in the city.

Now that the city is able to do more testing and get results back in as little as 15 minutes, health officials have been better able to test seniors at the facilities and inform the nursing homes of how the virus has spread. That allows the facilities to establish COVID-19 wings and areas of treatment to keep it separated from other living areas, city officials said.

"Our goal is to diminish the further spread in these communal living facilities where viruses like COVID-19 can thrive and place seniors and workers at a higher risk," Fair said.

Once testing is complete at nursing homes, the city will work with the Centers for Disease Control to deploy testing at more specialized long-term care facilities. The city doesn't know exactly which facilities will be tested first, but Duggan knows how it will be determined.

"We're going to go in order where the science tells us to go. So the places at which the spread is occurring the greatest, we're going to go there first," Duggan said.

Detroit has been one of the hardest hit cities in the U.S. during the outbreak. The city has confirmed 8,105 cases and 733 deaths as a result of the virus since the pandemic began.

Death notices

Dennis L. Curtis, 80, of Niles died April 21, 2020, at Memorial Hospital, South Bend, Ind. Halbritter-Wickens Funeral Home, Niles, 683-3000.

Nancy P. Hogue, 60, of Watervliet died April 21, 2020, at Lakeland Hospital, Watervliet. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

Shirley Markos, 70, of Battle Creek, Mich., died April 22, 2020, at home. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Damon A. Nichols, 45, of Benton Harbor died April 21, 2020, at home. Starks & Menchinger Chapel and Cremation Services, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

OBITUARIES

Stephanie Renee (Davis) Delaney

Oct. 4, 1971 – April 14, 2020

Stephanie Renee (Davis) Delaney was born Oct. 4, 1971, in Benton Harbor, to the union of Hugh and Eleanor Davis. At an early age, she accepted Christ and was baptized at Second Baptist Church. On Tuesday, April 14, 2020, our beloved Stephanie entered eternal rest.

She was educated in the Benton Harbor school system, graduating with the class of 1989 – forever a Tiger. She worked over 25 years in home health care. Until her health would not allow, she was employed at Signature HealthCARE of Marietta in Marietta, Ga.

Stephanie was married to Michael Delaney for over 20 years. To their union, they were blessed with four boys: Stephan, Michael Jr., Khirus and Davarus. God brought a special daughter to her life, Renee.

Stephanie leaves to cherish her beautiful memory: her husband, Michael; her sons; her daughter; her 18 grandchildren; her mother, Eleanor Davis; brothers, Keith, Kevin and Karl Davis; sisters, Richonda Davis, Deidra Travier, Kimberly Davis and Shaya Jackson; sisters-in-love, Margaret Shepherd and Brenda Delaney; aunts, Danethel Whitfield and Cansada Beck; uncle, Charles Beck; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, loving friends and extended family.

She was predeceased by her father, Hugh Davis; grandparents, Albert and Pearlie Mae Echols and Curtis and Willie Williams; in-laws, Gregory and Mary Shepherd; sister-in-love, Nicole (Kevin) Davis; uncles, William Downs, Albert Echols and William Whitfield; aunts, Terry Johnson and Ethel Downs; nieces, Juliette and Dajiuna Davis; and cousin, Dana Beck.

Raymond Henry Schultz

May 18, 1923 – April 21, 2020

Raymond Henry Schultz, 96, of St. Joseph passed away Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at The Willows in St. Joseph.

Raymond was born in Benton Harbor to the late Henry and Mary (Granke) Schultz on May 18, 1923. On Nov. 29, 1943, Raymond married Evelyn Haak. They remained married for 72 years, until Evelyn's passing in 2015. Raymond proudly served his country during World War II as a member of the U.S. Army. Raymond was a hard worker and took much pride in his work. He was a business owner, owning a Dairy Queen franchise in Benton Harbor, as well as owning a filling station. He was the chief of the St. Joseph Township Fire Department for many years. He enjoyed traveling with his wife to Greece, Italy and Austria. Raymond and Evelyn loved small dogs. They were fond of archery and were members of the Twin City Archers for many years.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Evelyn; his parents; and siblings, Leroy and Marjorie.

Raymond is survived by his niece, Sally (Dave) Tibbitts; and many extended family members and close friends.

The family will be remembering him privately. Memories, condolences, and photos may be left for the family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles.

IN BRIEF

Hartford combines three months of meetings

HARTFORD — The Hartford City Commission has rescheduled its March and April meetings to take place with its May meeting.

The meeting is set for 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 11 at City Hall 19 W. Main St., Hartford.

The original May meeting, set for May 18, has been canceled.

In the meeting notice, Hartford officials say that council members will observe social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so there will be a limited amount of space available in the council room.

"If you are planning to attend, please be mindful of public safety and send one spokesperson per family or organization if possible. Department Heads will be excused from this meeting," the notice reads.

The city commission is expected to do the final reading of, and approve, its recreational marijuana ordinance.

Final concert canceled

SOUTH HAVEN — The last concert scheduled for the 2020 South Haven Performance Series has been canceled.

The entire 2020 series now has been wiped out by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the past few years, the series has collaborated with the Irving S. Gilmore Keyboard Festival, but this year's festival has been canceled. Gilmore Young Artist Misha Galant was supposed to perform in South Haven on Friday.

In spite of the cancellation, there will be a virtual version of the Gilmore Keyboard Festival. The keyboard performances will begin online on Saturday at www.thegilmore.org. Galant will perform at 4 p.m. May 2.

For more information about the South Haven Performance Series visit southhavenperformanceseries.org.

Acorn presents virtual show with psychic

THREE OAKS — Canadian psychic/medium Jay Lane will make a virtual tour stop at The Acorn Theater at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday.

During the two-hour show, Lane will speak to as many people as she can. Her purpose is to spend time with, and pay special attention to, her guests, providing hope and closure.

She will discuss how she communicates with the other side, and will demonstrate readings for viewers from family and friends in the spirit world.

Attendees must be at least 18 years old.

Once attendees purchase their tickets, they will receive a confirmation email outlining the details and instructions for the virtual meeting within a few days. They will receive another email on Tuesday.

Tickets are $20, and are available online at www.acornlive.org.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

25 years ago – 1995

The only thing standing in the way of construction crews building a new gymnasium and remodeling the YMCA on Hollywood Road in Royalton Township is about $1 million. So far, about $650,000 has been pledged. As the final phase of the Y's fundraising campaign gets under way this week, officials believe there is enough generosity in the community to raise the $1.75 million needed for the expansion. Current facilities are not adequate for the ever-increasing membership, said Mike Ahern, executive director.

35 years ago – 1985

Construction is underway on a $1.1 million expansion of Benton Harbor Holiday Inn, according to Roger Cayo, secretary of Mar-Kay Development Inc., owner of the inn. Plans call for a two-story addition to be built on the north side of the existing complex at I-94 and M-139 in Benton Township, adding 32 rooms to the inn's current 120 rooms.

50 years ago – 1970

The hot lunch program at Fairplain Junior High was shut down today by Principal Carl Hutchinson. Hutchinson said only 31 percent of the normal 410 students bought lunch. "We can't afford to pay eight people to operate the cafeteria for that few students. There also is the waste of food to consider."

Students are boycotting lunch to get more variety on the menu and relax a school policy which does not permit students to leave the building during lunch.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Thursday, April 23, the 114th day of 2020. There are 252 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On April 23, 1616 (Old Style calendar), English poet and dramatist William Shakespeare died in Stratford-upon-Avon on what has traditionally been regarded as the 52nd anniversary of his birth in 1564.

On this date:

In 1898, Spain declared war on the United States, which responded in kind two days later.

In 1914, Chicago's Wrigley Field, then called Weeghman Park, hosted its first major league game as the Chicago Federals defeated the Kansas City Packers 9-1.

In 1943, U.S. Navy Lt. (jg) John F. Kennedy assumed command of PT-109, a motor torpedo boat, in the Solomon Islands during World War II. (On Aug. 2, 1943, PT-109 was rammed and sunk by a Japanese destroyer, killing two crew members; Kennedy and 10 others survived.)

In 1954, Hank Aaron of the Milwaukee Braves hit the first of his 755 major-league home runs in a game against the St. Louis Cardinals. (The Braves won, 7-5.)

In 1968, student protesters began occupying buildings on the campus of Columbia University in New York; police put down the protests a week later. The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church merged to form the United Methodist Church.

In 1969, Sirhan Sirhan was sentenced to death for assassinating New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. (The sentence was later reduced to life imprisonment.)

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday
Few Showers	Chance Showers	Mostly Cloudy	Few Showers	Few Showers	Partly Cloudy
55°	40°	53° / 43°	50° / 39°	46° / 38°	48° / 42°

Local Outlook

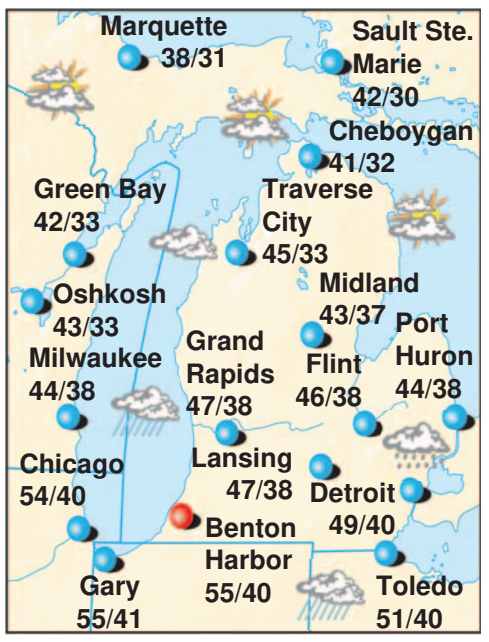
Today we will see cloudy skies with a 60% chance of showers, high temperature of 55°, humidity of 76%. East southeast wind 8 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 35% chance of showers, overnight low of 40°. Northeast wind 6 to 9 mph.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	6:51 a.m.
Sunset	8:36 p.m.
Moonrise	7:27 a.m.
Moonset	9:16 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
4/30	5/7	5/14	5/22

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	62°
Low	38°
Normal High	62°
Normal Low	41°
Record High	82° in 2007
Record Low	31° in 2003

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	1.83"
Normal for month	2.44"
Year to date	8.72"
Normal Year to date	8.09"

Air Quality

Yesterday	40
Main Offender	Ozone

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50	Good
51-100	Moderate
101-150	Sensitive
151-200	Unhealthy

Weather Trivia

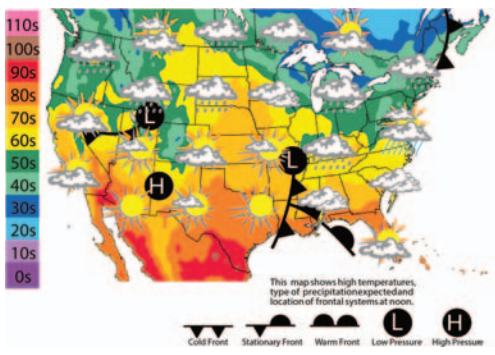
How hot is lightning?

?

Answer: Estimates place the temperature at around 54,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for April 23, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, S wind 5 to 8 kt. A chance of showers. Waves around 1 ft. Water temperature 43 degrees. Tonight, NNE wind around 11 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves around 2 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s and 40s. East wind 10 to 19 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies Friday with highs in the 40s and 50s. Northeast wind 4 to 7 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be cloudy with scattered showers and rain, highs in the 40s and 50s. East southeast wind 8 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with highs in the 40s and 50s. North wind 8 mph.

SALES

From page A1

first quarter also set records in the year-over-year comparison back to 2006," Jeffries said. "The number of houses sold in March rose to 244, from 234 sold in March 2019, for a 4 percent increase. Year-to-date, March fell 5 percent over March 2019."

The average selling price in March 2020 was $221,734, compared to $217,265 in March 2019 – up 2 percent. Year-to-date, the average selling price was up 8 percent.

The median selling price in March 2020 increased 3 percent to $180,000, from $175,000 in March 2019. Year-to-date, the median selling price soared 19 percent.

The selling prices – even with fewer houses sold – pushed the total dollar volume up 6 percent in March 2020. The year-to-date total dollar volume was up 3 percent and set the new record for the dollar volume at the end of the first quarter.

The inventory of houses for sale dropped 4 percent from March 2019. This level gave the market a 4.9-month supply of houses for buyers.

Locally, the mortgage rate averaged 3.63, up from 3.43 in February. Last year in March, the rate was 4.47. Nationally, the Freddie Mac mortgage rate in March was 3.5 – up slightly from 3.45 in February for a 30-year conventional mortgage.

Across the country

According to the National Association of Realtors, home sales increased year-over-year despite the expected monthly March sales decline due to the pandemic.

Existing-home sales fell in March following a February that saw significant nationwide gains. Each of the four major regions reported a dip in sales, with the West suffering the largest decrease.

Total existing-home sales dropped 8.5 percent from February to a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 5.27 million in March. Despite the decline, overall sales increased year-over-year for the ninth straight month – up 0.8 from a year ago.

"Unfortunately, we knew home sales would wane in March due to the coronavirus outbreak," said Lawrence Yun, NAR's chief economist. "More temporary interruptions to home sales should be expected in the next couple of months, though home prices will still likely rise."

While sales have declined, home prices are still solid.

The median existing-home price for all housing types in March was $280,600, up 8 percent from March 2019. March's national price increase marks 97 straight months of year-over-year gains.

Regionally, March sales decreased in every region compared to the previous month. Median home prices in all regions increased from one year ago, with the Northeast and Midwest regions showing the strongest price gains.

Existing-home sales decreased 3.1 percent in the Midwest to an annual rate of 1.25 million, up 4.2 percent from a year ago.

"Despite the social distancing restrictions, with many Realtors conducting virtual open home tours and with mortgage rates on the decline, a number of first-time buyers were still able to purchase housing last month," Yun said.

Nationally, the total housing inventory at the end of March totaled 1.5 million units, up 2.7 percent from February. However, March's inventory was down 10.2 percent from one year ago.

"Earlier in the year, we watched inventory gradually tick upward, but with the current quarantine recommendations in place, fewer sellers are listing homes, which will limit buyer choices," Yun said. "Significantly more listings are needed, and more will come onto the market once the economy steadily reopens."

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HOME

From page A1

In the first couple months of the year, Petzke said they were ahead in sales volume compared to a year ago. Those numbers have evened out after the state's executive order deemed his industry as non-essential.

"This pandemic pulled the rug out underneath us," Petzke said. "There's no sense of panic with the agents that work for us. But we're being very heavy on trainings to make sure they are aware of everything that's going on."

Linda Mawhinney, an associate broker at Pier Realty, said work has been extremely quiet.

She, as well as her husband, haven't shown a house to a client since the state initiated the executive order.

"There's very little going on. A lot of sellers are anxious for buyers to get in and take a look," she said. "Once restrictions came on, we stayed home and kept communication open to our sellers. They didn't seem to mind."

Petzke has seen a number of delays and cancellations in housing sales due to buyers being furloughed or laid off.

This time of year, Petzke said his staff is putting six or seven homes under contract per week. During the shutdown, it's dwindled to about one house per week.

"The deals we are still able to close are different. We are not able to go to the closings as agents," Petzke said. "Some title companies are doing curbside closings. Others are allowing one party to be in the office at a time to go through paperwork via video call – even though they're in the same building."

The use of technology has become a necessity for Realtors trying to sell homes.

Petzke said he has professional photography and video done for homes, but believes this will become more mainstream, moving forward.

"It's something we've always done for buyers out of the area," he said. "With this new normal, it wouldn't surprise me if our industry becomes more technologically advanced as a whole."

Looking ahead

In her 35 years in real estate, Mawhinney said this has been a unique experience.

She predicated a lot of Realtors will be dry over the next four to six weeks since everyone operates on commissions. The hope is restrictions will be lifted in May, allowing the market to regain its footing.

"I think the spring market will be on fire. Interest rates are fabulous," Mawhinney said. "However, I think we have to be careful. You don't want open houses right now, and showings should be spread out a half an hour apart to have time to sanitize. People will have to wear masks."

Robert Kaufman, Realtor for @Properties in New Buffalo, said it's no surprise the pipeline for Realtors has slowed to a trickle since the pool of potential buyers has shrunk.

"A lot of sellers are sitting on their cards," Kaufman said. "There will be pent up inventory and pent up buyer demand. Real estate will lead the resurgence and jump-start the economy."

Kaufman doesn't expect to see a prolonged recession, like the one that took place about a decade ago.

In 2008, when the housing market bubble burst, Kaufman said the economy was built on a faulty market.

What hurt the most for Southwest Michigan Realtors is the fact that this year was set up to be an early housing market.

There was little snow cover and temperatures were manageable, which meant more houses were selling, compared to the winter months in 2019.

In Southwest Michigan, there are two types of buyers that kick off the spring home-buying season.

One type are the Spectrum Health Lakeland and Whirlpool Corp. employees who move to the area and need to buy homes relative to work. Then there is the secondary component, in which buyers from border states are looking to buy second homes in the Harbor Country region.

"Normally that market doesn't take off until the thaw," Kaufman said. "Usually it's by the end of March. But this year was set up to be much earlier. When this thing hit, the market was just starting to get to the point where key inventory was hitting the market."

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Study: U.S. could see 100K virus deaths due to crowded jails

By NELSON OLIVEIRA
New York Daily News (TNS)

The Trump administration's recent projection that the country will see 100,000 to 240,000 coronavirus fatalities may be grossly underestimated.

A new epidemiological study released Wednesday by the American Civil Liberties Union claims the government model fails to account for the impact of the country's crowded jail system, which could "become veritable volcanoes for the spread" of COVID-19.

The highly contagious disease could claim the lives of an additional 100,000 people – including inmates, guards, their families and those in surrounding communities – if jail populations are not "dramatically and immediately" reduced, the nonprofit said.

Unlike prisons, jails house mostly men and women who are awaiting trial and are unable to post bail. That means many of them leave those facilities within days or weeks and go back home.

"As a result of the constant movement between jails and the broader community, our jails will act as vectors for the COVID-19 pandemic in our communities," the ACLU and its academic partners said in a statement.

The group includes researchers from Washington State University, University of Pennsylvania and University of Tennessee.

Their model claims the government's best-case scenario of 100,000 deaths, which are based on existing mitigation efforts, could actually double without a meaningful reduction of jail populations. With less-effective social distancing, the death toll could be near 375,000, or about 140,000 more people than the government's worst-case scenario.

COVID

From page A1

small steps forward," said Whitmer, who cautioned the need to closely watch the virus's spread in places outside metro Detroit such as Kent, Muskegon and Alpena counties. "Now is an appropriate time to reassess the breadth of the current stay-at-home order to assess the scope of what the next one might look like."

Layoffs

Whitmer's administration notified state employees of temporary layoffs that were necessitated by a drop in tax revenues due to the pandemic.

The state will furlough 2,900, or about 6 percent, of its roughly 48,000 workers for two weeks to save about $5 million. Officials will reassess whether further furlough days are necessary.

"I've made a lot of hard choices in the past six weeks. This was one of the hardest," Whitmer said.

The affected employees will keep their health insurance and other benefits, and will be automatically enrolled for unemployment.

Earlier this month, the state began paying an extra $375 a week to roughly 14,000 employees such as prison guards, state troopers, child-welfare caseworkers and people who work in veterans homes.

Separately, Henry Ford Health System in the Detroit area announced the temporary layoff of 2,800 workers, a day after Beaumont announced cuts. They have lost revenue due to a suspension of non-virus medical services.

Prison fallout

A Corrections Department employee who usually hunts for fugitives was in critical condition with COVID-19 after agreeing to work at a prison that had a staffing shortage, an official said.

Deputy Director Russ Marlan identified the worker on Facebook as Tom Johnson, an "incredibly hard working, competent and honest man." Johnson's fianceé also works for the department.

About 30 members of the department's absconder unit were shifted to the Parnall and Lakeland prisons, where staff have been hit hard by the coronavirus, spokeswoman Holly Kramer said Wednesday.

At least 25 prisoners and two staff members at Michigan prisons have died of COVID-19 complications. Hundreds have tested positive for the coronavirus.

Body storage

Wayne County health inspectors are trying to learn more about a makeshift morgue with dozens of bodies at a Beaumont Health hospital that has been temporarily closed.

A county health inspector was denied access to a hospital building in Wayne because he was told he was not wearing enough protection, spokesman Bill Nowling said.

He said it is not unusual for hospitals to have temporary morgues but the county wants to know who approved it.

"We just want to get in there and check it out," Nowling said. "They've got refrigerated units on the outside that are pumping in cold air."

An email seeking comment was sent to Beaumont spokesman Mark Geary. In an earlier statement, he said Beaumont got approval from Wayne city officials. But the city said it is still working on permit requirements.